

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 and 10-21 are pending in the application. By this amendment, claims 1, 2, 16, and 17 are amended, and claims 15, 20, and 21 are cancelled. Applicants request reconsideration and allowance of all remaining claims in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Specification

The abstract is objected to for use of the term “means.” Applicants have amended the abstract to remove that “offending” language. Additionally, Applicants have amended the abstract consistent with the claim amendment to better reflect the invention. No new matter has been presented.

The title of the application is objected to as not descriptive. Applicants have amended the title to better reflect the invention.

Further still, Applicants have amended Figures 1 and 2 to indicate that they depict prior art. No new matter has been presented.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-6, 8-10, 13, and 15-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Landes, U.S. 5,406,046. To the extent Landes does not disclose the limitations recited in claim 15 – now incorporated into claim 1 – Applicants traverse the rejection. Otherwise, Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of it.

As clarified by the amendment to claim 1, according to the invention, the frame element has both a plurality of through holes extending through it and at least two radially inwardly oriented powder injection ports. (Support for that amendment may be found, for example, in application paragraphs [0014], [0015], [0018], and [0041], as well as in original claim 15.) Landes does not show that. In particular, Landes discloses powder injection ports but not through holes. Accordingly, Landes does not anticipate claim 1, and Applicants request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Dependent claims 7, 11, 12, and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Landes, the features recited in those claims being deemed to be an obvious matter of design choice. Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to the anticipation rejection.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that all remaining claims are in condition for allowance, and timely Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

The undersigned representative requests any extension of time that may be deemed necessary to further the prosecution of this application.

The undersigned representative authorizes the Commissioner to charge any additional fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 or 1.17 that may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 14-1437, referencing Attorney Docket No.: 7589.053.NPUS01.

In order to facilitate the resolution of any issues or questions presented by this paper, the Examiner may directly contact the undersigned by phone to further the discussion.

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